Council Highlights: September, 1998

CANADA MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIPS

Dr. David Smith to conduct cross-Canada consultations

Jean Monty, Chair of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, has asked Dr. David Smith to undertake informal consultations across Canada with stakeholders from the postsecondary education community to assist in the program design and delivery of the scholarships. On September 11, Executive Heads of Ontario universities participated in a consultation session at COU.

The Canada Millennium Scholarships are the centerpiece of the federal government's Canadian Opportunities Strategy. More than 100,000 scholarships, with an average value of $3,000, are expected to be awarded to full- and part-time students each year over 10 years through an initial endowment of $2.5 billion. The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation was established by federal legislation at the end of June as an arm's-length body to manage the endowment and to award scholarships. These scholarships will increase access to postsecondary education for low- and middle-income Canadians to prepare them for the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.

TASK FORCE ON LABOUR MARKET ISSUES PUBLISHES REPORT

This COU Task Force, chaired by Dr. Richard Van Loon, has been examining relevant labour market concerns of industry sectors including the biotechnology, cultural and information technology sectors. Its recently published report, Sectoral Skill Needs: The Role of Universities, focuses on two key concerns -- the curricula of university programs whose graduates gravitate to jobs in the industry and continued skill development for those working in the sector.

MINISTRY GUARANTEES FUNDING FOR NURSING PROGRAM

The Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program, developed and implemented by a consortium of 10 Ontario university schools of nursing, has been guaranteed Ministry of Health funding through to 2002-03. The Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing (COUPN) has been invited by Assistant Deputy Minister of Health Judith Wright to participate in a working group that will consider the future enrolment plans for nurse practitioner students, ways of streamlining the administrative costs of the program, and the long-term transfer of funding support from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Education and Training.

REDEEMER COLLEGE - CHARTER AMENDMENT PASSES

College to grant B.A. and B.Sc. degrees

Bill Pr17 was passed in the last session of the Ontario legislature allowing Redeemer Reformed Christian College in Ancaster, Ontario, to grant the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts and Science, in addition to the existing Bachelor of Christian Education and Bachelor of Christian Studies.

The Minister of Education and Training supported the legislative amendment after receiving the report of the Ministry-appointed Academic Review Panel, chaired by Dr. G. E. Connell. Redeemer College will be subject to COU's cyclical undergraduate program review process on

terms to be negotiated between COU and the college. Redeemer College will not be seeking provincial government operating or capital support.

ONTARIO BUDGET 1998 INITIATIVES UPDATE

$150 million Access to Opportunities Program

COU continues to work with the Ministry of Education and Training (MET) to help enable as many universities as possible to participate in the program as fully as possible.

$29 million to recognize the contribution of Ontario universities that have increased students' access to postsecondary education and enhanced their job opportunities.

COU awaits MET's announcement of implementation details.

$135 million acceleration of the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund

The provincial government has put Ontario research in a better position to compete on the national scene by accelerating the spending of $135 million and waiving the requirement for one-third private-sector funding on that portion of the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund (ORDCF) allocation. The COU Task Force on the ORDCF, chaired by Dr. Peter George, encouraged the Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology to make adjustments to the terms of reference of the ORDCF to ensure that at least part of the Fund could be used to leverage funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. The government's action, therefore, comes at a most opportune time.

$75 million Premier's Research Excellence Awards

COU awaits the Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology announcement of program details. The Ontario Council on University Research provided advice and input to the Ministry.

$75 million Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology

Program details were recently announced by MET (please refer to page 4). The Ontario Council on Graduate Studies provided advice and input to the Ministry.

$9 billion Canada-Ontario Millennium Fund to meet the needs of Ontario students and limit student debt

COU supported a proposal to MET from the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance to establish an advisory committee on student assistance indicating COU's willingness to participate.

OSAP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

Collaboration key to Task Force initiatives

In November 1997, the Provincial Auditor released his annual report, which included a report on the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) audit. One recommendation called for the Ministry of Education and Training (MET) to "establish agreements with approved postsecondary institutions that set out mutual responsibilities and appropriate accountability and reporting requirements."

A COU Task Force on OSAP, chaired by Dr. James Downey, was established to respond to the Ministry's request to enter into a performance agreement on the administration of OSAP by universities. Subsequently, the government announced its 1998-99 program policies for OSAP,

which included the requirement for universities offering Ontario Student Loans to develop and disclose OSAP performance indicators -- graduation rates, placement rates and loan-default rates for their programs -- to help students make informed program decisions. The Task Force, assisted by the Accountability Committee of the Council on University Planning and Analysis (CUPA) and an OSAP Audit Guidelines Working Group, has been addressing these issues over the past several months.

The Task Force developed and proposed to the Ministry a framework of principles, including a proposed classification scheme of programs to map as closely as possible with the classification scheme used by the Statistics Canada's National Graduates Survey, which the Ministry has agreed to use as the basis for developing performance indicators calculations.

A joint COU-MET Steering Committee will oversee the collection, presentation and publication of the indicators to provide information to students for September 1999. COU representation is composed of Task Force members, led by Dr. Paul Davenport. The Task Force also endorsed a draft Framework of Principles for the Assurance of Propriety in the Administration of OSAP by Universities of Ontario, developed by the Working Group, and has asked the group to continue to work with the Ministry to arrive at a mutually acceptable document.

SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM

Double cohort and new curriculum under discussion

The Government of Ontario is planning for the transition to a new four-year high school program in 1999. When coupled with the introduction of streaming in Grade 9, this transition could create a temporary bulge in the number of high school graduates because two groups of students will meet the requirements of graduation. While the so-called double cohort's effects on participation in postsecondary education will likely last for several years, projections indicate that the greatest impact will occur in 2003. COU is currently discussing with Ministry staff the impact of the double cohort on accessibility and possible means for ensuring access for students.

In concert with the change to a four-year system, the Ministry of Education and Training (MET) has undertaken a complete review of the secondary school program. The Ministry has assured the universities that a sequence of university-preparatory courses on the model of Ontario Academic Credits (OACs) will form the new curriculum. COU is currently discussing with MET means by which Ontario universities could validate courses designed for admission to university.

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON GRADUATE STUDIES AND ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

Welcome news for research and graduate studies in Ontario budget

The Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS) and the Ontario Council on University Research (OCUR) have responded enthusiastically to the invitation of the Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology to provide input into the elaboration of new programs that were announced in the provincial budget in May, namely the $135 million acceleration of the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund (please refer to page 2), the Premier's Research Excellence Awards and the Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology.

The program details for the graduate scholarships were recently announced: for each of the next 10 years, up to $7.5 million will be made available annually for Ontario universities offering graduate programs in applied science, biological and life sciences and physical sciences. The awards will be given to students for excellence and will be administered by the universities. The Ministry will finance two-thirds of each award, which will be worth up to $15,000, and each

university will be responsible for finding private-sector funding for the other third.

Revised agreement with Mexican granting agency would expand programs

At its June meeting, the members of OCGS welcomed the Director and Assistant Director of Scholarships from CONACyT, the Mexican granting agency that supports the training of graduate students through agreements with several jurisdictions. CONACyT and Ontario universities, through OCGS, have had an agreement since 1996. The agreement is currently being revised to expand the current program to include more universities and more disciplines. It is expected that a draft agreement will be available for discussion at OCGS and with CONACyT this fall.

Undergraduate program reviews continue

The team of auditors, charged with the audit of undergraduate program reviews, audited two universities (Windsor University and The University of Western Ontario) in May. The reports from these audits are being finalized. Three audits are planned for 1998-99 as a part of the seven-year evaluation cycle of undergraduate programs of Ontario universities.

MINISTERIAL CONSENTS

Applications on the increase

The Degree Granting Act restricts the granting of degrees to Ontario universities and to out-of-province institutions with the consent of the Minister of Education and Training. In the past, ministerial consents have been granted for a limited number of programs offered primarily at the graduate level. Over the past year, there has been an increase in the number and type of ministerial consent applications being made to the Ministry.A total of 21 applications, falling under the categories of niche programs, CAAT degree completion programs and permanent facility requests, are pending.

COU's Task Force on Ministerial Consents, chaired by Dr. Claude Lajeunesse, was formed in 1998 to address issues related to this increased activity. The Task Force is working closely with Ministry staff to develop process/mechanisms to review ministerial consent applications to ensure that, where applications are approved, high academic standards are upheld.

COLLEGE-UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM COUNCIL

Extended mandate anticipated

It is anticipated that the College-University Consortium Council (CUCC), which was inaugurated in April 1996 for a two-year period, will be given an extended mandate to March 31, 1999 that will allow the CUCC to continue projects begun during the past two years and to undertake some new activities.

A major activity of the CUCC is the development of an electronic Web site for the Ontario College-University Transfer Guide that will provide students, institutions and the general public with information about Ontario-based credit transfer agreements, articulation arrangements and collaborative programs between the college and university sectors. This searchable database will be launched in December 1998.

The CUCC's 15 collaborative projects submitted their final reports last spring; the results are featured in the *CUCC Report to the Ministry* (August 1998), which is available on COU's Web site (see the CUCC home page). The Council is funded by the Ministry of Education and Training and is composed of three university and three college representatives along with one Ministry representative. Joint sponsors of the CUCC are the Council of Ontario Universities and the

BUSY SUMMER FOR COU'S NEW PRESIDENT

Since his July 1 arrival at the Council of Ontario Universities, new President, Dr. Ian Clark, hasn't been letting any grass grow under his feet. One of his first priorities was to visit the campuses of the majority of Ontario universities before the start of the new academic year. Mission accomplished. As this goes to press, Ian has visited 14 universities. As for the remaining three, Ian will combine his visit to Queen's with a speaking engagement at the Ontario Universities Employment and Education Equity Network Conference at the university on October 27-28; as was the case with Waterloo, he will be joined by Deputy Minister Ken Knox, Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology, for an upcoming visit to Western; and his orientation to Trent will be centred around the happy occasion of the inauguration of its President and former COU President, Bonnie Patterson, in October.

Ian was impressed by the countless examples of the innovative activities that are taking place on our campuses and the many partnership initiatives that are underway. Ian has asked us to convey his sincere thanks for the warm reception that he received throughout his visits and to extend special thanks to the faculty, staff and students who participated in orientation sessions. In addition to his university orientation sessions, Ian met with several other representatives from beyond the university community over the summer months including:

- Minister Dave Johnson
- Deputy Minister Veronica Lacey
- Assistant Deputy Minister David Trick
- Jamie Mackay, Director, Universities Branch
- Sean Morley, Special Assistant, Policy -- Ministry of Education and Training
- Deputy Minister David Guscott, Cabinet Office
- Deputy Minister Ken Knox, Ministry of Energy Science and Technology
- Ron McLaughlin, Chief of Staff to the Premier
- David Lindsay, President and CEO, Ontario Jobs and Investment Board
- Joan Homer, Executive Director, Association of Colleges of Applied
- Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO)
- Mike Garvey, Chair of the Steering Committee, Friends of Ontario
- Universities (FOU), and Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and other Members of the FOU Steering Committee
- Richard Dicerni, Senior Vice-President of Corporate and Environmental Affairs, Ontario Hydro, and former Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education and Training
- Mike Gourley, former Deputy Minister of Finance and now Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Dr. Ed Monahan, former Executive Director of the Council of Ontario Universities
- Dr. Stefan Dupré, President, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research

A trip to Ottawa for the Association of Commonwealth Universities Conference presented opportunities for further meetings outside of conference hours with Dr. Robert Giroux, President of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada; Dr. Tom Brzustowski, President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council; Dr. Marc Renaud, President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; and Dr. Henry Friesen, President of the Medical Research Council. A Montreal trip included a meeting with Jacques Bordeleau, Director General of the Council of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities, and Dr. Bernard Shapiro, President of the Council and also Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University.

For those of you who may have missed the news of his appointment, Ian is distinguished by a career in government and business that has spanned almost three decades. In the federal public

service for 22 years, he held many senior positions including Deputy Secretary (Plans) of the Privy Council Office, Deputy Minister of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Secretary of the Treasury Board and Comptroller General of Canada. He also served a two-year term as an Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund in Washington and, before joining COU, was a Partner at KPMG Canada. Ian earned a D. Phil. in Physical Chemistry from Oxford while attending the university on a Rhodes Scholarship; a Masters in Public Policy from the J. F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and a B.Sc.(Hons.) from the University of British Columbia.

REPORT FOCUSES ON EFFECTIVENESS OF LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

The Office for Partnerships for Advanced Skills (OPAS) completed its study of the cost and learning effectiveness of several learning technologies. The report, *Effectiveness of Learning Technologies: The Cost & Effectiveness of Technology-Based Approaches to Teaching and Learning*, provides a model for selecting appropriate technologies and case studies of several types of approaches. The study was sponsored by The Office of Learning Technologies and Ontario's Ministry of Education and Training.

COUNCIL APPROVES TASK FORCE ON ADMISSION ISSUES REPORT

At its April 1998 meeting, COU approved the final report of the Task Force on Admissions Issues, chaired by Dr. William Leggett. Since then, member institutions have been working diligently to alter their respective admissions processes accordingly for the 1998-99 admissions cycles. Details on individual institutional processes are highlighted in the fall 1998 issue of INFO 55.